

DK-US040366

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	
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Tadashi SAO et al.	:	Patent Art Unit: 3744
	:	
Serial No.: 10/580,909	:	Confirmation No. 6843
	:	
Filed: May 30, 2006	:	
	:	
For: BRANCHING PIPE JOINT AND AN AIR	:	
CONDITIONER PROVIDED THEREWITH	:	

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITH CERTIFICATION**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants bring the references listed on the attached PTO-1449-Form to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application. Copies of the non-U.S. patents are attached.

I hereby certify that each item of information in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited for the first time in any communication from a foreign patent office in any counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

*No fee is believed to be required in view of the above certification.* However, Applicants authorize the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to charge payment of the Petition fee Under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) *if required* and any other fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1836.

Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 3-37333 appears to disclose a refrigerant branching pipe joint having flexible branched parts 27B-E.

Respectfully submitted,

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